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CLEAN COAL TODAY

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR COAL UTILIZATION

PROJECT NEWS BYTES

In December 1999, George Rudins, DOE Office of Fossil Energy Deputy Assistant Secretary for Coal and Power Systems, was named 1999 winner of the **Washington Coal Club's Achievement Award**. The membership of the Washington Coal Club comprises private sector and government representatives working on coal issues and, for the past 20 years, has annually recognized members of Congress, industry, labor leaders, and government officials. Rudins was cited for his leadership in advancing clean coal technologies, as well as promotion of innovative concepts for pollution control, climate change mitigation, and carbon sequestration. He is also the author of FE's Vision 21 plan for a futuristic, virtually non-polluting fossil fuel energy plant.

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WABASH COMPLETES FOURTH YEAR OF COMMERCIAL OPERATION

One of the world's pioneering commercial-scale coal gasification-based power facilities, Wabash River's Integrated Gasification Combined-Cycle (IGCC) plant, has successfully completed its fourth year of commercial operation and processed over one-and-a-half million tons of coal. A winner of *Power* magazine's 1996 Powerplant Award, as well as other honors, Wabash River is one of the cleanest coal-fired facilities in the world, and has contributed greatly to the commercial potential of this advanced coal-based power generation technology. Gasification is already in wide use for syngas-to-chemical production, and under the DOE Office of Fossil Energy Vision 21 initiative, coal-based IGCC is expected to coproduce power and high-value chemicals and clean transportation fuels.



The 262-MWe Wabash River IGCC project repowered an existing facility.

DOE selected Wabash River in September 1991 as a Clean Coal Technology (CCT) Program Round IV demonstration project, and the Cooperative Agreement between the industrial participants and DOE was signed in July 1992. Commercial operation began in December 1995. The Cooperative Agreement ended in January 2000 after a four-year commercial demonstration, and the plant continues in commercial operation.

The original Participant was the Wabash River Coal Gasification Repowering Project Joint Venture, formed in 1990 by Destec Energy, Inc. of Houston, Texas and PSI Energy, Inc. of Plainfield, Indiana. Destec owned and operated the gasification facility, and PSI Energy owned and operated the power generation facility. In 1997, Houston-based Dynegy, Inc. purchased Destec. A final transfer took place last December when Global Energy, Inc. purchased Dynegy's gasification assets and technology. PSI Energy remains the owner and operator of the generating facility.

MAJOR REPAYMENT MADE TO DOE

Global Energy plans to market and license the Destec Gasification Process under the name: "E-GAS Technology™." Dynegy has repaid DOE \$550,000 — \$300,000 for the facility and \$250,000 for the technology. Global Energy

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...Wabash continued

will promote commercialization of the technology, and make repayments on future equipment sales or licenses for a 20-year period.

THE PROJECT

The project is located at PSI's Wabash River Generating Station near West Terre Haute, Indiana. PSI repowered a 1950s vintage steam turbine and installed a new syngas-fired combustion turbine while continuing to utilize locally mined high-sulfur Indiana bituminous coal. The repowered steam turbine produces 104 MWe that combines with the combustion turbine generator's 192 MWe and the system's auxiliary load of 34 MWe to yield 262 MWe (net) to the PSI grid.

GASIFICATION PROCESS

The Wabash Project features the integration of the E-GAS process with an advanced General Electric MS 7001 FA high-temperature gas turbine. The E-GAS process features an oxygen-blown, two-stage entrained flow gasifier capable of operating on both coal and petroleum coke, with continuous slag removal.

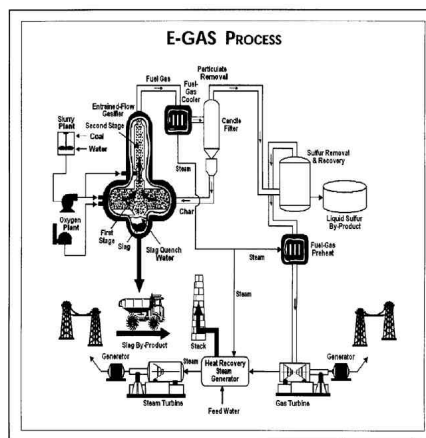
As illustrated in the schematic, syngas is generated from gasification of a coal/water slurry with 95 percent oxygen in a reducing atmosphere at 2,600 °F and pressure of 400 psig. The syngas produced from coal comprises 45.3 percent carbon monoxide, 34.4 percent hydrogen, 15.8 percent carbon dioxide, 1.9 percent methane, and 1.9 percent nitrogen, and has a higher heating value of 277 Btu per standard cubic foot (dry basis). The ash melts and flows out of the bottom of the vessel as a vitrified slag (frit) by-product. Additional coal/water slurry added to the second gasification stage undergoes devolatilization, pyrolysis, and partial gasification to cool the raw gas and

increase its heating value. The syngas flows to a heat recovery unit, producing high-pressure saturated steam that is superheated and used to drive a steam turbine. Subsequently, the particulates (char) in the raw gas are removed with a hot/dry candle filter and recycled to the gasifier where the remaining carbon is converted to syngas. After particulate removal, the syngas is water-scrubbed for chloride removal and passed through a catalyst that hydrolyzes carbonyl sulfide to hydrogen sulfide. The hydrogen sulfide is removed using methyldiethanolamine absorber/stripper columns. The syngas is then burned in a gas turbine that produces electricity. Gas turbine exhaust heat is recovered in a heat recovery steam generator to produce steam that drives the steam turbine to produce more electricity.

Over its four years of operation, the plant has demonstrated an im-

pressive record of continually increasing reliability and syngas production, with 2.7×10^{12} Btu in 1996, 6.2×10^{12} Btu in 1997, and 8.8×10^{12} Btu in 1998. Overall, plant availability has increased from 56 percent in 1997 to 72 percent in 1998 and 79 percent in 1999. Thermal efficiency (HHV) is 39.7 percent on coal and 40.2 percent on petroleum coke compared to the 33–35 percent figure for conventional pulverized coal-fired plants. The greater the thermal efficiency, the less coal is needed to generate a given amount of electricity, thereby reducing both fuel costs and carbon dioxide emissions.

Emissions from Wabash River's IGCC facility are 0.1 pounds of SO_2 and 0.15 pounds of NO_x per million Btu of coal input. This SO_2 emission rate is less than one-tenth the emission limit set for the year 2000 by the acid rain provisions of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Particu-



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late emissions are less than the detectable limit set by EPA-approved emission measuring methods.

Another major environmental advantage at Wabash is the production of useful by-products. From startup through the end of 1999, Wabash has recovered and sold 33,888 tons of

elemental sulfur (99.99 percent purity) for agricultural applications.

The IGCC technology demonstrated at Wabash River is an ideal candidate for repowering the more than 95,000 megawatts of existing U.S. coal-fired utility boilers that are more than 30 years of age, and for

meeting the needs of a burgeoning foreign power generation market.

For more details on this and other CCT Program Demonstration Projects, please visit the Clean Coal Technology Compendium web site at <http://www.lanl.gov/projects/cctc/>.



Award-winning Wabash River IGCC plant continues in commercial operation after four years of successful demonstration.

...News Bytes continued

ENCOAL assets and responsibilities assumed by SGI International. SGI International (SGI) has purchased all ENCOAL plant assets from AEI Resources, which includes assuming full responsibility for marketing and repayment obligations to DOE. SGI has been actively securing customers for the plant's products in order to support the re-start of the mothballed demonstration plant. The company is adding new partners to share plant operating costs, and anticipates re-start by mid-2000. In a related action, SGI International has signed a long-term agreement with American Electric Power (AEP) to transport upgraded coal from the ENCOAL Demonstration Plant near Gillette, Wyoming to AEP's Cook Coal Terminal at Metropolis, Illinois for further barge delivery to various SGI customers, including AEP. This agreement provides a valuable in-

centive for SGI to restart the plant as well as move ahead with a larger commercial plant.

Fuel cell subcontract approved for Kentucky Pioneer IGCC Project. DOE has reviewed and approved the subcontract between Fuel Cell Energy (FCE) and Kentucky Pioneer L.L.C. FCE is planning to build and operate a 2-MWe molten carbonate fuel cell (MCFC) on a slipstream of clean syngas from the 400-MWe plant. FCE will scale up the design of their module from an existing 250-kW test facility. The FCE activity will cost about \$34 million, of which DOE will fund 50 percent. The IGCC project is planned for an existing power plant site in eastern Kentucky and is currently in the design and permitting stage. When completed, this will be the largest commercial-scale IGCC and MCFC facility to operate on coal-derived syngas.

Rosebud SynCoal reorganizes to better align interests. Western SynCoal Co., Montana Power's research and development arm for enhanced coal technologies and products, has reorganized to reduce administrative costs and better align its interests with those of Western Energy Co., an affiliated coal mining company. Under the new structure, Western SynCoal and two other entities, SynCoal Inc. and the Rosebud SynCoal Partnership, will form Western SynCoal LLC, a limited liability company. Western SynCoal was the operating entity of the partnership formed in 1992 between subsidiaries of The Montana Power Company and Northern States Power Company (NSP) to enhance low-quality coals by improving their heating values while removing moisture, sulfur, and ash through an Advanced Coal Conversion Process (ACCP). Over the years, Western SynCoal bought out NSP's interest.

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INTEGRATED GASIFICATION FUEL CELL (IGFC) DEMONSTRATION TEST

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Introduction

Power generation in the United States relies heavily on coal with 56.3% of the power or 1807 billion kilowatt-hours generated using coal in 1998 as shown in Figure 1. As total U.S. coal consumption increases from 1043 to 1279 million tons a year between 1998 and 2020, the average annual increase is projected to be 0.9 percent. About 90 percent of the coal consumed in the U.S. is used for power generation. In the next 20 years, coal is expected to remain the primary fuel for power generation, although its share of total generation declines between 1998 and 2020 as natural gas increases its share²⁵.

As concern about the environment generates interest in ultra-clean energy plants, fuel cell power plants can respond to the challenge. Fuel cells convert hydrocarbon fuels to electricity at efficiencies exceeding conventional heat engine technologies while generating extremely low emissions. Emissions of SOx and NOx are expected to be well below current and anticipated future standards. Nitrogen oxides, a product of combustion, will be extremely low in this power plant because power is produced electrochemically rather than by combustion. Due to its higher efficiencies, a fuel cell power plant also produces less carbon dioxide. Fuel cells in combination with coal gasification, are an efficient and environmentally acceptable means to utilize the abundant coal reserves both in the United States and around the world.

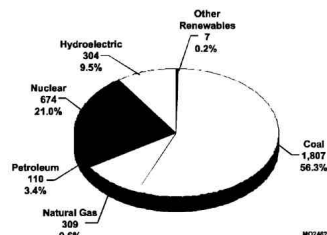


Figure 1

1998 U.S. Electric Generation by Fuel Type (Billion Kilowatt-hours)¹

Source: U.S. DOE/EIA "Annual Energy Review 1998"
(Data for U.S. Electric Utilities)

To demonstrate this technology, FuelCell Energy Inc. (FCE), is planning to build and test a 2-MW Fuel Cell Power Plant for operation on coal derived gas. This power plant is based on Direct Fuel Cell (DFCTM) technology and will be part of a Clean Coal V IGCC project supported by the US DOE. A British Gas Lurgi (BGL) slagging fixed-bed gasification system with cold gas

²⁵ International Technical Conference on Coal Utilization and Fuel Systems
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clean up is planned as part of a 400 MW IGCC power plant to provide a fuel gas slip stream to the fuel cell. The IGCC power plant will be built by Kentucky Pioneer Energy, a subsidiary of Global Energy, in Clark County, KY.

This demonstration will result in the world's largest fuel cell power plant operating on coal derived gas. The objective of this test is to demonstrate fuel cell operation on coal derived gas at a commercial scale and to verify the efficiency and environmental benefits.

Fuel Cell Power

The carbonate fuel cell derives its name from its electrolyte, which is made up of potassium and lithium carbonates. Figure 2 shows a simplified flow schematic of the carbonate fuel cell power plant. Syn-gas from the gasification plant clean-up system is cleaned up further and moisturized. The moisturized syn-gas is fed to the anode side of the fuel cell where methane is internally reformed and CO is shifted to CO₂ and H₂. Spent fuel exits the anode and is further oxidized in the anode exhaust oxidizer to supply oxygen and CO₂ to the cathode. The resulting reactions in the fuel cell anode and cathode produce DC output which is inverted to AC. The cathode exhaust supplies heat to the fuel clean-up, steam boiler and co-gen system as it is vented from the plant.

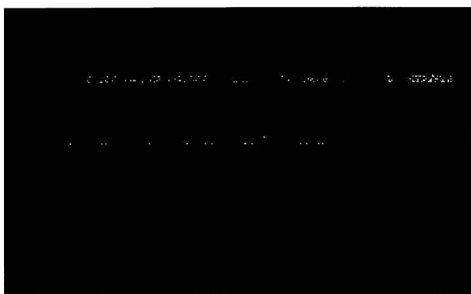


Figure 2.
Fuel Cell Power Plant Simplified Process Schematic

A 3-MW fuel cell power plant designed to operate on natural gas, shown conceptually in Figure 3, will be the basis for the power plant operating on coal derived gas. Two fuel cell modules, each housing four fuel cell stacks, produce the DC power. An inverter converts the DC power to AC. The balance of plant equipment includes thermal management, water treatment, switchgear and controls.

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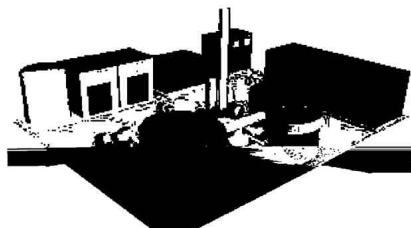
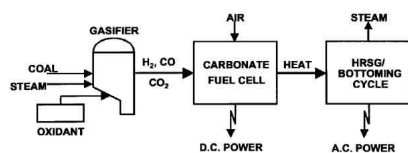


Figure 3
3-MW Fuel Cell Power Plant for Natural Gas

System studies

Fuel cell systems operating on coal have been studied extensively in past years. A simplified block diagram of a fuel cell power plant system is shown in Figure 4. Gasification is used to convert the solid fuel to a gas which is processed to remove sulfur compounds, tars, particulates, and trace contaminants. The cleaned fuel gas is converted to electricity in the fuel cell. Waste heat from the carbonate fuel cell is used to generate steam required for the gasification process and to generate additional power in a bottoming cycle.



MO1001

Figure 4
Integrated Gasification Fuel Cell System Simplified Block Diagram

At a 200 MW scale, past studies^{4,5,6} indicated that using conventional gasification and clean-up technologies, a heat rate of 7379 (46.3 % HHV efficiency) can be achieved with IGFC utilizing BGL gasification and low temperature clean-up. This plant would require 1800 tons/day coal

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